

## Lalgudi G J R Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi

In the context of classical violinists in India, Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, occupy pride of place. Torchbearers of the venerable Lalgudi tradition, pioneered and nurtured by their father and guru, Padma Bhushan Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, the duo's music is an interesting study in contrasts. Together, their music is classical but refreshingly contemporary; its form and feel is minimalist but at its core, it is intricately complex and layered; in its experience, the music is a celebration of both the beauty of duality and the appeal of individual identity.

That beauty, in the quality and rendition of music, stems from their disciplined learning and the years they spent earnestly in making the music literally their own. Rooted very firmly, and proudly

in the erstwhile Lalgudi bani that is a celebration of the gayaki ang, emphatic in its importance to the lyrical, melodic and the laya aspects of music, the duo's mastery over form, content, and feel, is not merely owing to their shared and privileged lineage, but also because of their own nuanced understanding and appreciation of its varied aspects.

Making their debut just as they stepped into their teens, respectively, and having played together now for over three decades, Krishnan and Vijayalakshmi have also blossomed into noteworthy and versatile artistes in their own right. Top ranking artistes of the All India Radio and with an array of titles and awards –to name a few, the Sangeetha Choodamani, the Kalki Krishnamurthy award and the coveted award 'The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal' by the Indira Sivasailam Foundation and The Music Academy in the year 2017.

The duo has also been recognised and acknowledged for a slew of eclectic musical articulations and experiments in music. Together, the duo has also composed music for dance productions like Veda Bharathi and 'Sambhavami Yuge Yuge', a full length dance opera in which they have composed both lyrics and music.

Individually Krishnan has composed music for a dance production 'Jagat Pavani Ganga' which toured the US in Sept 2018.

Viji has added a new facet to her profile by working with an orchestra in Dallas and composing an orchestral piece called 'Pancha Bhootham' in 2017.

Their musical trysts have taken them to far corners of the globe and with quiet dignity, allowing only their music to speak for themselves, the duo is undoubtedly the singular and among the most soulful ambassadors of the Lalgudi legacy